

Séance For The Greater Good

a comedy sketch idea by
Jonathan D Steinhoff, 10.28.12

On the day before the 2012 U.S. presidential election, a classified video is leaked, the timing of its illicit release obviously intended to undermine Obama.

The video is set in a business meeting room, the lights very low, a group of somber-faced people sitting together at a round table. We soon find that this is a séance, with the people at the table each touching the hand of the person seated next to them. It is attended by **Obama, Biden, Hillary**, and several secret service agents (one of whom frequently talks into the mic in his wrist throughout the séance about this or that security matter, which always disturbs Hillary, who sits next to him and so has joined hands with his).

The purpose of the séance is to awaken the dead spirits of Jimmy Stewart and Sid Buchman, who popularized the filibuster in "Mr. Smith Goes To Washington" (Stewart starred, Buchman wrote the screenplay).

Buchman's Spirit

I am the dead spirit of Sid Buchman, who wrote the film classic, "Mr. Smith Goes To Washington."

Obama

That you, Sid Buchman?

Buchman's Spirit

Yes, Barrack Obama. Boy! I sure wasn't expecting a call from the first black American president out here in the land of the dead!

Obama

Yeah, yeah. Listen, Buchman - got a big problem. Now, I was told that, for some "cosmic reason", I am *never* gonna get rid of the filibuster, the way they're using it to ruin everything in the Senate, until I get the non-partisan, willing support and involvement, of the guy who got the world loving the filibuster in the first place. Buchman, that's you.

Buchman's Spirit

Really? That's what they say?

Obama

That's right, Buchman. Only you can undo this.

Buchman's Spirit

You can call me Sid, Mr. President. By the way, I've always been a Democrat, even up here in heaven.

Obama

Appreciate that, Sid. Now listen. The filibuster is making it where, I get a majority, in the Senate, okay - and I still lose! And they keep doing this to me!

Biden

We absolutely can't get *anything* done.

Hillary

The filibuster is giving the Republicans the power of a Senate majority even though they're the minority in the Senate. We can't get a jobs bill voted on, we can't-

Jimmy Stewart's Spirit

Why, that's terrible! Hey Sid, too bad you didn't write in, maybe if you coulda written in a scene where-

Obama

No one knew they would abuse the filibuster like this, which is, which is like a, like a.....

Biden

Like turning something that's good into a shiv to stab someone with in prison.

Buchman's Spirit

Like making a stapler a deadly weapon.

Jimmy Stewart's Spirit

Like-

Obama

Okay, we got it. So, Sid, can you help us? I know you're on our side in this.

Buchman's Spirit

I'm just a spirit from the dead, what can I do?

Biden

No earthly powers?

Hillary

We were told if we could reach out to you in the beyond.....

Buchman's Spirit

You may actually know more about this than me.

Jimmy Stewart's Spirit

You know, *I* may have heard something....

Buchman's Spirit

How's this: We check into this stuff, find out if we have any special earthly powers when in relation to things we created when alive on Earth, and then report back to you?

Hillary

Oh, that would be terrific!

Obama

That would be great! Would truly appreciate it!

Biden

Thanks, guys! And Sid, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" – another classic!

Hillary

That's the only kind of film these guys knew how to make!

Obama

The best! Alright, well, so when's a good time for you for another séance?

Buchman's Spirit

Whatever's good for you.

Obama

Can we call you guys back from the dead at.... 3:15pm, Tuesday?

Jimmy Stewart's Spirit

Works fine for me!

Buchman's Spirit

Works for me too.

Obama

Great! 3:15pm Tuesday. Okay, let's go!

A secret service agent turns on the light, **Obama, Biden and Hillary** stand up, and off they go.

THE END